

April 17

Bousalem, Sheikh Sabah meet

KUWAIT (AP) — Algerian Foreign Minister Bousalem Bousalem met Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad, who heads an Arab League committee seeking to mediate an end to Lebanon's 14-year-old civil war, during a stopover Sunday. The Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said that during a long night meeting, Bousalem was briefed on details of the committee's efforts. The six-member committee has completed consultations with warring factions in Lebanon and legal experts were starting Sunday to formulate a tentative peace formula that would have to be endorsed by the Arab League, possibly at a heads of state meeting. KUNA said that Bousalem, who has been visiting Arab countries including Syria, Jordan and Iraq, briefed Sheikh Sabah about matters "related to Lebanon" on his tour. It gave no other details. Bousalem's swing through Arab capitals is linked to efforts by Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid to help heal rifts in Arab ranks. Reports in the Gulf say his main concern has been bridging differences between Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat as well as the rift between Damascus and Baghdad.

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King in Paris en route to U.S.

By Rania Atalla
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein arrived in Paris Sunday for a one-day visit during which he is expected to meet with French President Francois Mitterrand before proceeding to the United States for a scheduled meeting with President George Bush April 19.

The King is scheduled to have lunch with the French president Monday at the Elysee Palace and is expected to leave for the U.S. via London later in the day.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King would discuss with the French and U.S. presidents the latest developments on the Arab and international levels and efforts to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East as well as means of boosting bilateral relations.

King Hussein was received upon arrival in Paris by French Minister of State for Foreign Affairs George Sar and senior officials in addition to Jordan's ambassador to France and embassy officials.

King Hussein's visit to the U.S. comes in the context of cautious

A Jordanian official was

but optimistic efforts to resolve the Middle East conflict. It is the King's first trip to the U.S. since 1985, and follows back-to-back visits to the U.S. by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

On Saturday, King Hussein met with Palestine President and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat, who flew in to Amman for a lightning visit. Talks between the two leaders aimed at coordinating positions and were believed to have focused on the PLO's response to Shamir's proposal for polls in the occupied territories to elect Palestinians for "autonomy" negotiations with Israel.

The Jordanian official quoted by Reuters as saying the King would ask Bush to clarify his qualified support for Shamir's proposal.

Jordan and Egypt have said the final response to the plan is up to the PLO.

Arafat has said the PLO would accept elections only under international supervision after Israel withdraws from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and the Palestinians are granted self-determination.

King Hussein is also expected to urge the U.S. to accept a U.N.-sponsored Middle East peace conference, to expand the ongoing American-PLO dialogue and to permit the creation of a Palestinian state on the occupied territories.

The Jordanian official quoted by Reuters said the King would urge Bush to develop what Jordan sees as a more positive U.S. stance, giving the PLO a major role in Middle East peace talks.

Arafat expressed hope Saturday that the King would be able to convince the U.S. president to be more active in efforts to solve the Middle East conflict.

"I am sure he (the King) will do his best to... push the Amer-



His Majesty King Hussein is seen off upon his departure for France Sunday by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, His Royal Highness Prince Faisal and senior officials (Petra photo)

Regent hosts iftar

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday hosted an iftar for senior officers from the Jordanian Armed Forces, Public Security, Civil Defence and General Intelligence departments at Al Hussein Ibn Ali Brigade Club in Zarqa.

The iftar was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Faisal bin Al Hussein and the Armed Forces staff. The Regent and the guests attended Al Maghrib prayer.

Thunder of shelling drowns appeals for calm; Spanish envoy among 20 killed

Beirut burns

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Shells, rockets and mortar bombs blasted a burning Beirut Sunday drowning appeals for a halt to the violence and killing at least 20 people, including the Spanish ambassador.

During the day of savage battles, the worst in the latest round of bloodletting, nearly 100 people were wounded.

Frightened, hungry, and shell-shocked residents hid in shelters and corridors praying that the bloodshed, now in its fifth week, would stop.

Police reported that at least 20 people were killed, including Spanish envoy Pedro Manuel de Aristed, in the ferocious 18-hour blitz that raged from dusk Saturday to mid-afternoon Sunday, when it died down into sporadic shelling.

That raised the casualty toll from 40 days of civil war fighting to at least 225 killed and 827 wounded.

A police spokesman said the artillery and rocket duels were among the most intense in Lebanon's 14-year-old civil war.

He said that at one point shells were "falling like rain" around

the hilltop presidential palace in the suburb of Baabda, where army commander and head of the military government Michel Aoun lives, and the nearby Defense Ministry in Yarze, his headquarters.

Shells also exploded around the mansions of the U.S., French and Egyptian ambassadors in east Beirut. But no casualties were reported.

Police reported that the country's main power plant in the Zouk district of east Beirut was set on fire by direct hits. But the blaze was quickly put out by firefighters.

The office of Italy's ANSA agency in the western sector was damaged by shrapnel. None of the staffer at the five wire services was injured.

The Spanish ambassador and his Lebanese wife Jounana were both wounded when a shell crashed into the embassy shelter in the suburbs of Baabda.

Doctors at Sacre-Coeur hospital said the ambassador, 61, was hit by a shrapnel in the head and died in hospital. His wife was in critical condition.

Police said state-run Radio Beirut in west Beirut's Hamra district went off the air when 155-mm shells destroyed its transmission aerial.

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the hilltop presidential palace in the suburb of Baabda, where army commander and head of the military government Michel Aoun lives, and the nearby Defense Ministry in Yarze, his headquarters.

It was the first time such a call had been included among the slogans, also issued annually on the eve of the anniversary of the Nov. 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, and clearly showed Kremlin worries over the situation in several republics.

The slogan appeared as thousands of people carrying black flags walked in funeral processions through the streets of the Georgian capital, Tbilisi, to burial ceremonies for the last of the dead in the April 9 incident.

Other funerals also attracted thousands of mourners Friday

and Saturday.

The Communist Party newspaper Pravda said the decision to deploy Soviet troops to break up the Tbilisi demonstrations came from politicians and was opposed by the military commander of the district.

Radio Moscow also reported that 20 people, mostly women, died and more than 150 were injured in the April 9 clashes between soldiers and protesters.

The official Georgian news agency Gruzinform said the death toll remained at 19, the same figure given by a Foreign Ministry spokesman last week.

At a rally in Moscow, human rights activist Andrei D. Sakharov blamed the bloodshed in the southern Caucasus republic on new government restrictions on demonstrations.

EC to pursue Mideast peace parley

GRANADA, Spain (R) — The European Community (EC) plans a series of initiatives over the next two months aimed at convening an international Middle East peace conference, Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordóñez said Sunday.

He told a news conference the EC could also propose an interim solution to restore peace to the Israeli-occupied territories once it had consulted the Arab and Israeli sides.

Among the moves he detailed was a visit to Israel by a senior Spanish Foreign Ministry official or Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's trip to Madrid May 23.

He also said senior State Department officials would visit Madrid and the 12-nation community would make fresh contact with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). The EC's Middle East working group would then assess the situation, he added.

Spain currently chairs the EC Council of Ministers. An EC "troika," comprising the foreign ministers of France, Spain and Greece, earlier this year launched a series of contacts to try to achieve peace in the Middle East.

Views on East bloc

Meeting here Sunday, EC foreign ministers said the concept of a monolithic European East bloc was vanishing, and called on Warsaw Pact nations to press on with recent reforms.

During informal talks which reaffirmed EC support for political change in Eastern Europe, the ministers welcomed reforms in Hungary and Poland but vowed to keep pressing Romania over human rights.

She ordered a major inquiry into the disaster and added: "Whatever decisions we have to take will be taken because we cannot go through this again."

Hospital spokesman in this northern city where scores of survivors were treated for crush

Fees revised for registration, licensing of vehicles, drivers

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree has been issued endorsing a cabinet decision to revise regulations and fees on registration, licensing and driving of vehicles.

Under the new regulations an annual fee of JD 200 will be collected for taxi cars, JD 150 for tourist cars, JD 250 for medium-size buses and JD 300 for public transport buses.

A one-time fee will be collected for the registration of trucks, trailers and semi-trailers used for public transport, in accordance with the following rates:

Cargo trucks with one-tonne loading capacity — JD 200;

Public transport trucks with a capacity of more than one-tonne, but not exceeding five tonnes — JD 300;

Public transport vehicles with a capacity of more than five tonnes — JD 800;

A one-time registration fee on other vehicles will be collected as under:

Private and tourist saloon cars with an engine capacity not exceeding one litre — JD 120;

Private and tourist cars with an engine capacity not exceeding one and a half litres — JD 180;

Private and tourist cars with an engine capacity not exceeding two litres — JD 240;

Private and tourist cars with an engine capacity not exceeding 2.5 litres — JD 300;

Private and tourist cars with an engine capacity not exceeding three litres — JD 400;

Private and tourist cars with an engine capacity exceeding three litres JD 2,000;

Cargo trucks with a gross load weight ranging between one-tonne and three tonnes — JD 150-300;

Registration fees for taxi cars used for public transport — between JD 100 and JD 1,000 according to the engine capacity;

Registration fees for private medium-size buses — JD 150;

Registration fees of medium-size buses used for public transport — JD 250;

Registration fees for motor cycles — JD 100;

Vehicles and other cars not operated by gasoline will be subject to registration fees ranging between JD 120 and JD 2,000.

A fee equivalent to 50 per cent of the registration fee, in addition

to 25 per cent of the registration fee, will be collected for the re-registration of written off cars for each year or part of an year following the first year if the car has not been licensed on time (during the grace period).

Licensing fees for gasoline-operated private cars range between JD 20 and JD 200 according to engine capacity. However licensing fees for vehicles operated by diesel oil range between JD 90 and JD 450.

Licensing fees for gasoline-operated public transport cars range between JD 10 and JD 25, while they range between JD 45 and JD 80 for diesel oil-operated cars.

Licensing fees for private trucks or public transport trucks range between JD 12 and JD 24. An amount of half a dinar will be added for each tonne or fractions of a tonne in excess of the first three tonnes of the load. For vehicles operated by diesel oil, the fees range between JD 30 and JD 60.

A fee ranging between JD 25 and JD 100 will be collected for transferring the number plate from one car to another and for transferring the plate in the licensing authority's custody.

A fee of JD 10 will be collected for transferring the ownership of any vehicle.

The fee for practical driving test is JD 5 and for the traffic signs test JD 2.

A fee ranging between JD 3 and JD 20 will be collected for the technical examination of the car depending on the size of the car and the purposes it is used for.

A JD 2 fee will be collected for issuance or renewal of any driving licence and another dinar will be charged for the driving licence or the vehicle's licence card upon its issuance or renewal.

A fee of half a dinar will be collected for certification of any document issued by the Drivers and Vehicles Licensing Department.

A fee of JD 10 will be collected for issuing a driving licence to replace a missing one while a JD 2 fee will be collected for issuing a driving licence in lieu of a damaged one.

An annual fee ranging between JD 50 and JD 10 will be collected for issuing licences for taxi offices, driver training schools, car auction centres, car dealers and travel offices.

A fee of JD 20 will be collected for transferring a car from a private one to a public one or vice-versa.

Three more turn martyr on Abu Jihad anniversary

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli troops shot dead three young Palestinians and imposed curfews on nearly a million Palestinians Sunday during a "day of rage" marking the anniversary of the assassination of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) military commander Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad).

Hospital officials said soldiers shot 10-year-old Mohammad Suleiman Rubie in the occupied West Bank village of Samoa south of Hebron. They said Nasir Ibrahim Kasas, 17, was killed in the Dheisheh refugee camp near Bethlehem.

An army spokesman said troops shot and killed a 20-year-old wanted by Israeli forces in Khan Younis in the Gaza Strip after he allegedly attacked soldiers with a knife.

The Bethlehem area has been gripped by protests since Israeli border police killed at least five Palestinians and wounded more than 15 in a bloody raid on the nearby village of Nahalin last Thursday.

Palestinians said troops in Samoa also wounded four boys, aged 10 to 12, when the soldiers opened fire to disperse stone-throwing protesters.

Palestinians and hospital staff reported that troops shot and



Mass curfews and increased Israeli military presence in the occupied territories have failed to dent the Palestinian uprising — the 'revolution of stones'

Probe ordered into British soccer stadium disaster amid mourning

SHEFFIELD (Agencies) — Calling it "a disaster of immense proportions," British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said Sunday that investigators would try to determine why 94 soccer fans were crushed to death during a match.

As Thatcher inspected the scene of Britain's worst sports disaster, lawmakers called Sunday for banning the anti-riot fences that kept crowds from escaping when a crush of people crowded the soccer stadium.

Thatcher visited Hillsborough Stadium, where a sunny Sunday afternoon soccer cup semifinal match turned into a nightmare of crushed bodies and fans climbing over them gasping for air.

Thatcher was accompanied by Home Secretary Douglas Hurd and Sports Minister Colin Moynihan as criticism of the police mounted.

She ordered a major inquiry into the disaster and added: "Whatever decisions we have to take will be taken because we cannot go through this again."

Afghan rebels hit troubled waters

By Oliver Wates
Reuter

ISLAMABAD — The Afghan rebel campaign, for nine years a straightforward "holy war" against a foreign communist invader, is facing a crisis two months after the last Soviet soldier left Afghanistan.

In the view of many analysts, Western diplomats and Afghan-watchers in Pakistan, the disparate Mujahedeen rebel movement is finding it hard to adapt to the new situation.

They say the Mujahedeen is losing the propaganda war with President Najibullah's Soviet-backed government in Kabul and has failed to establish its rival interim government as a credible alternative.

The movement has also failed to allay the fears of millions of Afghans in government-held cities of looting and massacre.

And, worse of all, it has failed to make good the boasts of Mujahedeen leaders that a military victory was round the corner. The stalemate battle for Jalalabad has shown that the military struggle could go on for a long time.

"The jihad has not been as successful as we thought in the beginning, despite all the weapons we had," an exiled Afghan intellectual said.

"It's very difficult to see the Mujahedeen winning the war militarily," a Western diplomat

commented.

This analysis is disputed by the seven Western-backed parties based in Pakistan. In public at least they are as confident as ever that final victory over Najibullah's People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) is merely a matter of time.

All Mujahedeen admit, however, that the six-week-old battle for Jalalabad has been a blow to their hopes.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Hezb-I-Islami party gunned down 70 soldiers who had surrendered, rebel sources say. Last month 25 captives were taken forcibly from a moderate rebel group outside Jalalabad and shot dead.

These and other widely-reported incidents are the most powerful incentive for defenders to fight to the bitter end.

Exiled Afghan analyst Naim Majrooh warned in his latest monthly bulletin that looting and killing by victorious guerrillas would drive civilians into Najibullah's hands.

"There is a danger that uncompromising attitudes of the resistance will enable the Kabul regime and the Soviet invaders to achieve what they failed to do in the last 10 years — win the support of Afghanistan's urban population," he said.

Many guerrilla commanders are deeply unhappy with the way the jihad is being run. They blame Pakistani intelligence for pushing the rebels into the Jalalabad operation, and preaches Islam, moderation and reconciliation.

Officially all guerrilla commanders deny they would even contemplate doing a deal with the PDPA. But rebel sources say dozens of understandings already exist, such as agreements to let food convoys pass.

The commanders' links to the Pakistan-based parties are often tenuous and in the long term many might be persuaded to talk to Kabul, guerrilla sources say.

"Some very tough commanders are listening to Najibullah's speeches, they are following all events in Kabul," one Afghan activist said.

The seven parties are still fighting. Two cabinet meetings were held inside Afghanistan, but ministers from one party were not even invited to the second, guerrilla sources say.

The government has yet to win

'Uncompromising' stands

Last December guerrillas belonging to the fundamentalist

Afghan army seeks to help stranded convoy

KABUL (R) — The Afghan army sent tanks and other reinforcements Sunday to help free a convoy of food and fuel caught up in fierce battles with Mujahedeen guerrillas.

Drivers arriving at a checkpoint outside Kabul told Reuters they had witnessed tank and rocket duels about 30 kilometres from the Afghan capital, with at least 200 trucks stranded in the area along the hazardous Salang Highway.

They said some trucks and armoured cars were burning out of control, hit by rebels dug in along the highway feeding Kabul from the Soviet Union.

Explosions echoed off nearby hills as government tanks blasted away at guerrilla positions.

Afghan helicopter gunships usually escort convoys from the Soviet Union but often fail to draw out rebels determined to starve Kabul into submission by choking off essential supplies.

Soldiers said more than 10 people, including soldiers, had been killed in two days of fighting. There was no immediate comment from the government which claimed Saturday that all the trucks had made it to Kabul.

The soldiers said at least 20 of the trucks had been hit by the Mujahedeen who have been fighting for almost 10 years to

overthrow the government of President Najibullah.

"I saw four tanks burning along the highway, some supply trucks had also been hit by the Mujahedeen," one driver said.

The first 90 trucks broke through the Mujahedeen blockade Friday, bringing much-needed supplies to the capital.

The rest of the original convoy of several hundred has been stranded since. The blockade has caused a pile-up of some 140,000 tonnes of food along the Soviet border.

The soldiers at the checkpoint told Reuters they expected the reinforced government troops to unblock the highway later Sunday.

Some diplomats estimated the number in the original convoy at 700 and it was not clear how many of the trucks had been set on fire during their journey from the Soviet border.

The Salang Highway running north to the Soviet Union passes through mountainous terrain, making it a safe haven for the rebels to rocket the trucks.

The rebels have reduced to a trickle the essential supplies reaching Kabul over land, forcing the government to rely on a Soviet airlift to prevent starvation and enable its troops to battle the Mujahedeen.

Old soldiers come to the fore in Egypt

By Sara Al Gammaal
Reuter

CAIRO — Egyptian Field Marshal Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala, appointed presidential assistant Saturday, has long been viewed as the second most powerful man in the country.

He has won respect and power as defence minister by re-equipping and restructuring the armed forces, and turning the 450,000-strong military into a high-tech deterrent.

His successor is Cairo Governor Yousef Abu Taleb, an approachable professional soldier with a love for trees and clean city streets.

President Hosni Mubarak's

surprise appointment of Abu Ghazala as his assistant fell short of making the 59-year-old war veteran and military reformer his vice-president.

Egyptian analysts say it may be some time before the full implications of the appointments become clear.

An eloquent man who speaks fluent English, French and Russian, Abu Ghazala is a veteran of three wars against Israel and in peacetime mobilised Egypt's armed forces against a new enemy, economic stagnation.

Increasing Egypt's military production has been one of Abu Ghazala's main targets. He has tried to build a local arms industry able to compete in the world market and pro-

vide the Arab World with defence needs.

In the Gulf war, Egypt became one of Iraq's main weapons and ammunition suppliers and has provided Arab states with political support and military advice.

Born in the Nile Delta village of Kafr Al Omara Jan. 16, 1930, Abu Ghazala is a veteran of three wars against Israel and in peacetime mobilised Egypt's armed forces against a new enemy, economic stagnation.

After returning from Washington, Abu Ghazala became chief of staff with the rank of field marshal in 1980 and defence minister the following year after the death of the incumbent, Ahmad Badia.

He became chief of military intelligence in 1974 and military attaché in Washington two years later. He has been heavily criticised by the left for his close ties with the West, particularly the United States.

In the mid-1970s Abu Ghazala worked under Abu Taleb who was then chief of artillery for the military, according to Talaat Mussellem, an analyst at Al Ahram Centre for Political and Strategic Studies.

He graduated from Egypt's War Academy in 1949, a year after Abu Taleb did. Trained in the U.S. and Moscow's Stalinist Academy, Abu Ghazala grasped new technology and commanded an artillery bri-

gade in his 30s.

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Abu Taleb, a tall grey-haired man, was appointed assistant defence minister in 1980 before becoming the first governor of north Sinai, returned to Egypt from Israel in 1982.

In 1983, he was appointed Cairo's governor and is popular for his campaign to clean up the city and solve its traffic problems.

"He is a very good organiser with a calm attitude... he has a very calm tone and a reasonable and rational approach," said Makram Moshammad Ahmad, editor of the political review Al-Mussawar.

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Under the constitution the 83-seat assembly of experts, which chose Montazeri in 1985, can elect a three- or five-men leadership council if it finds no single successor to Khomeini.

IRNA said the members of parliament urged Khomeini in a letter to set up a commission to draft constitutional amendments.

They also called for changes in articles covering the judiciary and the organisational structure of the government's executive branch.

The deputies, IRNA reported, "said the text of the constitution in the said areas has some major flaws which would have to be amended or else the normal operation of state affairs would be disturbed."

Calling for a referendum on the changes, they noted that the need to amend the constitution "has been felt by every person involved with the various aspects of the administration of state affairs during the past 10 years."

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Under the

National News

VTC extends facilities to graduates

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Labour's Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) has finalised arrangements for providing training in different trades for graduates of Yarmouk University, and it hopes that the practice will be copied by community colleges and other universities in Jordan, according to VTC Director General Burhan Shreideh.

In a statement published by Sawt Al Shaab daily Saturday, Shreideh said that the step is being taken by the VTC to enable graduates to find suitable jobs in their own specialisations or other trades alike.

The VTC has already embarked on providing training to members of families under "family cooperatives" programme designed to help the bread winner of the family earn additional income, Shreideh noted. He said that the practice, which is followed in many countries around the world, entails training family members to sew shirts, do knit wear, do maintenance work on small equipment and machines.

Shreideh added. Shreideh said that the VTC intends to help the centres' graduates to find employment after graduation, and has plans for expanding training for girls and to set up centres which can produce different articles for sale in the local market.

He said that seminars are being held periodically and visits to schools made in cooperation with the Ministry of Education to encourage students to enrol at the vocational centres.

Referring to cooperation with Arab states, Shreideh noted that the VTC has signed a \$200,000 agreement to help South Yemen to commence vocational training programmes and has carried out similar programmes in Bahrain, North Yemen and Libya. The VTC has already dispatched instructors to these countries to help them carry out vocational training programmes, and it is hoped that the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) will open the way for further inter-Arab cooperation in this respect.

Not only normal trainees benefit from the VTC services, but also the handicapped men and women are offered special vocational training courses to help them earn their own living,



RSCN President Anis Muasher (centre) presents RJ Chairman Ali Ghadour with the society shield. On the right is the society's member Mrs. Leila Sharaf (Petra photo).

RSCN honours RJ

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) Sunday demonstrated its appreciation of Royal Jordanian (RJ) for its endeavours to enable the society repatriate the Arabian oryx and other animals threatened with extinction.

The RSCN President Anis Muasher presented RJ Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Ali

Ghadour with the society's shield. Muasher said that the shield was presented on RJ's 25th anniversary and in expression of appreciation of the airline's endeavours to assist the society in its contribution to preserve wildlife in the Kingdom.

The RSCN is now in charge of seven wildlife reserves which had been established in the country to protect plants and animals and

prevent their extinction, according to a society report earlier this month. The society owns 50 heads of oryx at the Shomari Wildlife Reserve near Azraq oasis which was established in 1975.

Earlier this month the society said it was preparing a 13-part television programme on the environment in Jordan in cooperation with the Jordan Television and local writers in a bid to promote a drive for protecting the Jordanian environment and reducing pollution in the country.

The RSCN also reported that it was establishing a wildlife museum in Jordan in a bid to focus public attention on the need to protect and preserve all types of animals and highlight the country's natural history.

Crossing River Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD) Sunday announced a programme for travel across the Jordan River bridges to and from the occupied territories. According to the programme, the King Hussein and Prince Mohammad bridges will be open on Wednesday April 19, 1989 only until 10 a.m. and will be closed completely on the following day April 20.

The two bridges will open normally on Tuesday April 25, until 10 a.m. only and remain closed on the following day, the statement said. It said that traffic across the bridges on other days in between will remain normal. The statement gave no reason for the new arrangements.

Transport fares next

Prices revised

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications announced Sunday that it will conduct a comprehensive revision of the current rates of transport fares in the light of Saturday's announcement of the increases in fuel prices.

A study of the cost of transport has become necessary now in view of the fuel prices which were among other things increased by a cabinet decision announced late Saturday night. Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan said.

According to the cabinet statement, the prices of fuel, soft and alcoholic drinks, cigarettes and natural mineral water were increased, and there will be increased also on the rates of registering and licensing of vehicles and of telephone bills.

The prices were readjusted in accordance with recommendations made to the government by a special committee revising the country's financial, planning, commercial, industrial and supply policies, and in an attempt to redress the deficit in the budget, increased revenues for the treasury and control spending, according to cabinet statement published in the local press Sunday.

Petrol

According to the new measures which take immediate effect, the price of fuel will be as follows: a gas cylinder will be sold for JD 2 up from JD 1.8, a litre of super petrol will be sold for 270 fils up from 210 fils, a litre of regular petrol will be sold for 220 fils up from 180 fils, jet fuel, 80 fils a litre up from 65 fils, diesel oil, 75 fils a litre up from 65 fils, kerosene, 75 fils a litre up from 65 fils, asphalt, JD 60 per tonne up from JD 50.

With regard to drinks the following fees on television are added, but did not specify the amount and said that a 10 per cent increase will be added to the telephone bills and telephone annual subscription.

The cabinet statement said that there will be an increase in the fees imposed on registering and licensing vehicles of all types and that a list of the new rates will follow.

Soft drinks

Aerated water to sell for 130 fils per litre up from 110 fils for reusable containers and 135 fils from 115 fils for disposable containers. Natural mineral water from 110 fils to 135 fils per litre for reusable metal containers and from 115 fils to 135 fils a litre for disposable containers.

The cabinet also decided that fees on television be added, but did not specify the amount and said that a 10 per cent increase will be added to the telephone bills and telephone annual subscription.

The cabinet statement said that there will be an increase in the fees imposed on registering and licensing vehicles of all types and that a list of the new rates will follow.

SDC board meets, reviews projects progress

SALT (Petra) — The work and achievements of the Salt Development Corporation (SDC) were reviewed at a meeting here by the corporation's board meeting under the chairmanship of Mr. Jaafar Al Shaami the corporation's director general and board chairman.

Shami announced that the corporation's cultural centre has been completed at the cost of JD 1.5 million and will be officially opened in the coming month. The SDC, he said, is now setting up gardens and green areas around the cultural centre at the cost of JD 10,000.

The cultural centre is a complex built through contributions from Saudis and Kuwaitis and includes a mosque, a public library, a craft training centre, a car park and a multi-purpose hall, Shami told the meeting.

Shami also announced that the

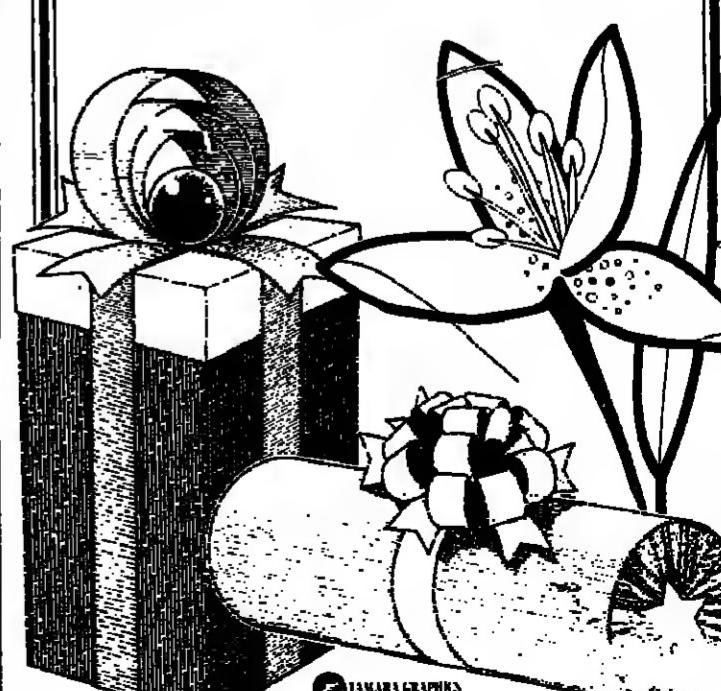


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Despite nightmare, Ahlam holds to her dreams

By Najwa Najaar and Rania Atalla

Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — Ahlam's nightmare started when the 24-year-old girl from the village of Ya'bad near Jenin in the Israeli-occupied territories, was participating in a march to commemorate the martyrdom of one of her fellow villagers.

The situation in Ya'bad was so tense that the Israeli occupation army could not enter the village. Ahlam, whose name literally translates into "dreams," recalled from her hospital bed in Amman, "A helicopter started throwing tear gas bombs on to the 800 or so peaceful demonstrators."

One of the bombs landed close to Ahlam. She attempted to kick the bomb away from her, but within one minute she lost consciousness from tear gas inhalation.

The immediate effect of her exposure to the gas caused a burning feeling in her face, her eyes were constantly tearing and

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

* An art exhibition displaying paintings by children at the Housing Bank Complex.

RAMADAN SOUQ

* Ramadan open-air market, which includes foodstuff, clothes, home appliances and children's toys at Mahaata, eastern Amman.

LECTURE

* A lecture entitled "The Bible and History: the Origins of State" by Jean-Michel de Tarragon at the French Cultural Centre - 5:00 p.m.

FILM

* A French film entitled "La Belle Equipe" at the French Cultural Centre - 8:30 p.m.



Ahla shows her inflamed arm at Palestine Hospital last week.

neither can they disprove it: In any case, they cannot help but link her symptoms with the February 1988 event.

Deep infection

A biopsy carried out in a local laboratory indicated that Ahlam suffers from infections under the skin as deep as the blood vessels and muscles. Ulceration have developed on her skin due to the decreased blood supply in the affected areas.

Dr. Ziad Kayali, a plastic and reconstructive surgery specialist who is directly supervising Ahlam in Jordan do not have the facilities to determine the substance that causes Ahlam's symptoms, he "strongly suspected" that chemical substances caused

the harmful change in Ahlam's skin tissue.

"It is definitely not a skin disease," he said. "There is a 90 per cent possibility that chemical substances caused this phenomenon." Still, he said, Ahlam's symptoms are simple compared to what she may develop in the future. Doctors have told her she is likely to develop complications in any of her organs related to the central nervous system, she says. For the time being however, her eyes and skin continue to hurt.

Ahlam's is the first such case doctors in Jordan have come across. A skin specialist, Dr. Umeish Umeish, said medical reports have indicated that inhaled gas can be absorbed systematically causing damage to skin and

muscles of the body.

Another skin specialist involved in the case, Dr. Wajdi Kan'an, pointed out that symptoms such as Ahlam's which appear due to a disease, are usually seen only in the lower limbs, and not as in Ahlam's case, in the arms or upper body.

Kan'an said only countries which produce tear gas would be in a position to prove that what Ahlam is suffering from is inhalation of poisonous chemicals since they would know what the chemicals contain and would therefore have the antidote for her treatment.

Ahlam is one of the few victims of Israeli oppression fortunate enough to have gotten treatment abroad. ... "I am convinced that

Israeli occupation authorities would not have allowed her to cross the bridge if they had known she would be treated here. She is scheduled to fly to France this week to receive advanced treatment. But until she does, she continues to develop more and more painful symptoms on her body.

Ahlam seemed to tolerate her suffering quite well. She did not mind the pain and discomfort because she believes that it is the price for liberation.

'Our soul'

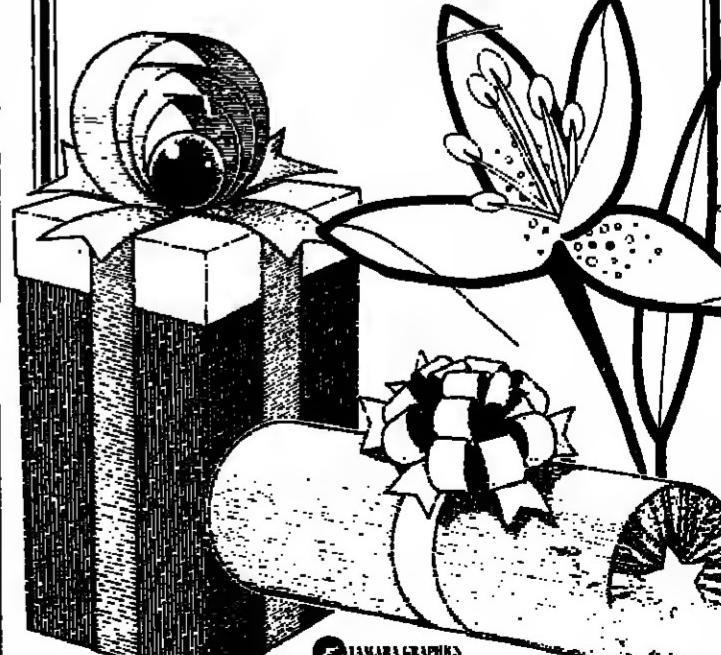
"This is our country, our soul," she said in reference to the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. "No one would ever give it up. I would not sell a single clod of its earth, not for anything in the whole world."

The intifada, she says, is the "winning card" in the hands of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. "It allowed us a chance to express ourselves, whenever we throw a stone," we are expressing our grievances against occupation."

In her conviction, the intifada erupted as a reaction to 20 years of occupation — "twenty hard years of humiliation, oppression, and suppression."

"If you keep blowing it, a balloon is bound to burst. This is exactly what happened to a people who were subjected to daily beatings, humiliation, and degradation," she asserted. "The Israeli occupation forces may, in fact, be doing us a favour. Every time they hit us, they make us stronger."

One of Ahlam's six brothers was badly beaten by Israeli soldiers. Another was wounded in the leg by a bullet. But, she says, neither what happened to her nor what happened to her brothers will stop her. "My morale is higher than ever, and for me, the barrier of fear has been shattered. Our lives under occupation will end either in death or in liberation."



Opinion & Analysis

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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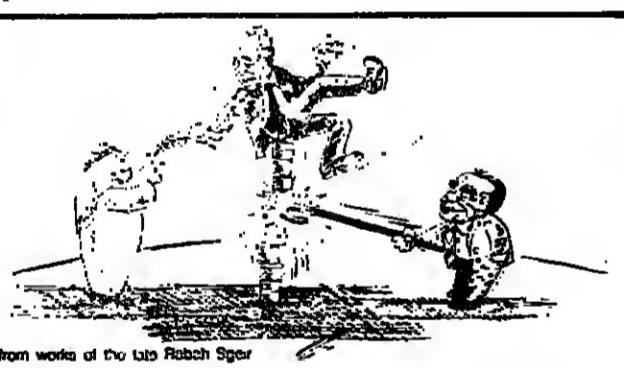
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The only hope for Lebanon

WITH the principal antagonists in Lebanon divided as ever on how to defuse the recent escalation in the fighting in the country and the international community also getting confused and bewildered on how to resolve the 15 years old conflict, the only remaining common denominator on which all parties within and without Lebanon seem to agree is to give the Arab League's reconciliation committee all the support necessary to enable it to carry out its mandate. This Arab League committee is painstakingly and step by step working on a formula to settle the Lebanese crisis from its roots and in all its dimensions. Surely a formidable problem of the size of the Lebanese dilemma cannot be expected to be settled over night. Much work has still to be done. Equally important is that such Arab efforts need to be done quietly, confidentially and away from the limelight in order to give the various factions in Lebanon appropriate opportunities to negotiate with one another through the Arab League committee in the most earnest possible way. Luckily there is a growing consensus regionally and internationally that the Arab League efforts offer Lebanon and the Lebanese people their best chance to put an end to their sufferings. Every effort must therefore be made by all parties to the Lebanese conflict to give the ongoing Arab League attempts to bring the Lebanese drama to peaceful and reasonable resolution a real chance to succeed. There is no way for the Arab League to accomplish the mandate of the ministerial committee without affecting an immediate halt to the indiscriminate shelling that is still going on in Lebanon.

It pains every human being on Earth not to mention the Arab Nation to see endless killing and destruction continue in Lebanon. In this vein, the deployment of an inter-Arab force to monitor the armed conflict in Lebanon would be the only sensible thing left to do now. If there is ever an opportune time and environment for the resort to an inter-Arab force to assure the stopping of blood letting in Lebanon it is now. The Arab World must demonstrate to Lebanon its real devotion and commitment to its return to normalcy in accordance with the Arab League charter and by the most operational way — the deployment of an Arab peace-keeping force. The reputation of the Arab League system is now at stake and how it goes about ending the armed and political conflict in Lebanon would determine its relevancy within and without the Arab World. The eyes of the whole world are therefore set on the Arab League ministerial committee and on its recommendations to put an end to the cycle of the fighting between fellow Lebanese people.



JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily newspaper praised the government's measures designed to bolster the national economy and said that the decision to raise the price of non-essential materials was a step in the right direction. The paper said that the boosting of the economy is a national responsibility and the Jordanian citizens must shoulder their share and contribute towards executing a five year economic programme which will reduce the deficit in the budget and increase domestic revenues. Reducing expenses and rationalising consumption are bound to lead to further savings which are needed to pay off the debts and maintain the momentum of socio-economic development in Jordan, the paper added. It said that the execution of economic programme as backed and endorsed by the International Monetary Fund will help stabilise the Jordanian currency and achieve further economic growth reaching up to four per cent. For its part the government will now embark on implementing the economic programme which would not only save funds needed for development but will open the way for further investments and subsequent additional income.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily Sunday discusses the work of the Arab League mediation team which is trying to put an end to the civil strife in Lebanon. We wonder how this mediation team will be able to end the conflict in Lebanon since the Lebanese people themselves have lost their control over their own affairs, says Tareq Masarweh. The Lebanese militias, the writer adds, have become tools in the hands of bigger powers and the battlefields in Beirut are no more than stages for their acting. The meetings in Kuwait with the representatives of the different parties, and the decision whether to add one member to parliament or not, can by no means end the sufferings of the Lebanese people. The only solution, the writer says, is to hold talks with the bigger powers which are exploiting the Lebanese people and perpetuating the sufferings of the innocent people.

Al Dustour daily commented on the current flurry in Arab diplomatic activities on the eve of King Hussein's travel to Washington for talks on the Middle East issue with President Bush and the American administration. The paper said Amman has been visited by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat for coordination of stands vis-a-vis the Palestine question and other national issues. It said that the visits by the two Arab leaders here can be interpreted as a means to boost the Arab Nation's stand and to add their efforts to those of the King who is spearheading the endeavours to achieve peace.

Weekly Political Pulse

Inching towards elections?

By Waleed Sadi

ISRAELI Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's election formula for the West Bank and Gaza Strip appears to be gaining currency amid reports that Washington is leaning heavily in favour of endorsing it because it allegedly contains the seeds for a breakthrough in the Middle East peace process. Newsreports, meanwhile, suggest that Palestinian and Arab rejection of the idea is slowly eroding. All these developments are taking place when little thus far has been released about the salient features of the election scheme.

It must also be remembered that the election idea per se came in the midst of a multi-faceted "peace" plan that Shamir took with him to Washington last week. Accordingly the presentation of the principle of the ballot in the West Bank and Gaza Strip was never highlighted as the centrist theme in the Shamir plan. The other points mentioned in the Israeli proposal touched upon the sacrosanctity of the Camp David Accords, the need to resolve the Palestinian refugee problem and the overall Arab-Israeli relations. Thus, as I see the election component of the Shamir initiative, it is only a part of a comprehensive package deal featuring complimentary components from the Israeli point of view. What amazes me therefore is why all the fuss about one part of an Israeli "peace recommendation" when all the other parts,

which are just as contentious and substantive, have escaped Arab and international attention.

As for the idea of settling the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through ballots rather than bullets, it appears that what Shamir has in mind is that any such elections would produce a Palestinian delegation which will negotiate an interim settlement in which a self-governing administration will be set up in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Shamir also offered a tempestuous bait which says that there could be negotiations after the viability of the interim settlement has been substantiated which would address the issue of the final settlement for the occupied territories on a basis which would not exclude any option. However the willingness of Shamir to discuss any option as basis for a final settlement was not left to rest in peace by Shamir for with the same breath he made it emphatically clear that his country cannot relinquish control of the West Bank and Gaza Strip because such withdrawal would lead to a "PLO state" on the outskirts of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem and that in his estimation that would constitute a mortal danger to Israel.

The immediate question that comes to the fore is which of Shamir's statements one should believe: the one suggesting that before long there will be negotiations on the permanent status of

the Arab territories, in which all options would be considered, or the one that refers to the West Bank and Gaza Strip as Judea and Samaria from which Israel cannot withdraw? To me such a question and better still the answer to such a question is more fundamental than whether the Arab side should welcome the election proposal or reject it. Instead, the rhetoric on the election idea is moving in the direction of whether to accept elections among the Palestinians conditionally or to reject them unconditionally. As Nabil Shaath, political adviser to President Yasser Arafat has commented before the American Society of Newspaper Editors in Washington Thursday, "the idea of elections is absolutely desirable, absolutely exhilarating to Palestinians. But then one has to put these elections in their proper perspective. Free elections require an end to occupation."

But if in the final analysis there are elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip under appropriate conditions there would be no way to put the genie back in the jar. The ripples and after-effects of such an exercise of free and democratic elections would snowball to infinite proportions and there is no telling where they will all lead the Palestinian side. However one thing is sure. The result of any such elections under suitable conditions would be the surest civil way to undermine Israel's continued occupation of Arab territories.

Eagleburger: Step-by-step in the Mideast

Following is the text of remarks made by U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger at the United Jewish Appeal (UJA).

WHAT I want to talk about very briefly this afternoon is the Middle East — just to give you a little outline of where we stand in the aftermath of the Shamir and Mubarak visits. But before I talk briefly about the visits themselves, I need, I think, give you a little sense of sort of where we're coming from on the general problem of the Middle East peace process.

There are really three factors that have guided the President and Secretary Baker when they begin to try to deal with this thus far intractable problem: the first is I think obvious to everybody. The situation in the region is not one that will get better by itself. It's not a situation if left to itself, will improve. Therefore, we have to be active. But at the same time we do believe that there are opportunities which may have changed Israeli and Palestinian thinking enough that they are worth exploring.

Second, the environment in the region, will not sustain a negotiation now in our judgment, or a high visibility initiative by any outside party including the United States. The formal gaps between the parties are still too large, and suspicions are still too entrenched.

Third, mechanisms like an international conference — at this

time — may distract from the choices they have to make to implement the workable process.

Focusing on the conference at this point, would in our judgment be counterproductive. That is not to say that a conference at some time may not be possible, but it is not something that we believe ought to be the first event — or close to the first event — in the peace process.

Prime Minister Shamir came with an encouraging elections proposal that could provide a basic for moving ahead. The Prime Minister's proposal went beyond Camp David — that is, elections before an agreement on transitional arrangements — not after — and that's a major step forward and we need to recognise it as such. He also used a new formulation: elections to quote, "launch a negotiating process," unquote, which suggests his understanding of the need to satisfy Palestinian political aspirations within some context.

It is our view that the key principles of these negotiations must be the achievement of Israeli security, Palestinian political rights and a comprehensive peace through negotiations based on U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. It is within this framework that we are evaluating, looking at, studying the consequences of the visits by Mubarak and Shamir.

Our general judgment is that we are encouraged by what has happened so far, though I would

also caution you, and it should be fairly obvious, that we are again dealing with small steps.

President Mubarak clearly understands our approach, particularly the need to change the atmosphere before workable negotiations can be launched. He left here agreed not to prejudice the idea of elections and to work with the Arab world to see how we might transform the situation and build on the elections idea in a way that makes progress possible.

Let me end by saying a word about the PLO. We are not trying to mediate between Israel and the PLO. We do have our own dialogue with the PLO, as you know. That dialogue is not an end in itself. We will use it to determine whether Arafat is ready to take concrete steps to allow a process of Israeli-Palestinian accommodation on the West Bank and in Gaza to develop. We are hopeful at this point, but it's early in the process. There is certainly a long way to go, but we have a process underway, we think, that is rolled in reality. We want to build on what the prime minister has brought us — and it is significant — and it is important that all of those who are committed to peace — Arabs, Israelis, Palestinians and Americans — not reject out of hand the ideas that Shamir has brought and that we work constructively together to give it a fair hearing.

We are, in a word, asking everyone to give us a chance to make this work, and we recognise that it will take time. We also say to you that it is nothing that will lead to an immediate or obvious breakthrough. The word again, is step-by-step process, and we have

only begun with the small steps necessary to hopefully, bring us to a substantial change in conditions in the Middle East.

I would be happy to try to answer any questions for about five minutes.

3 more turn martyr

(Continued from page 1)

Bank city of Nablus and two in Jenin refugee camp.

All these areas were under curfew at the time, as was Deheisheh where Kasas was shot.

At least 437 Palestinians have been killed in the 16-month-old Palestinian uprising.

All 650,000 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and more than 300,000 in the West Bank were under curfew Sunday, one year after Abu Jihad was gunned down at his Tunis home.

Despite the army curfews, dozens of protests were reported Sunday.

In Nablus, dozens of pictures of Abu Jihad were plastered on walls and utility poles. In Tulkarem, Palestinians chanted over loudspeakers: "Abu Jihad, rest in peace. We continue the struggle."

Israel never officially acknowledged responsibility for the Abu Jihad assassination, but authoritative Israeli sources said the inner cabinet ordered it in the belief that Abu Jihad was directing the uprising.

Shamir wins cabinet backing.

Shamir meanwhile won broad cabinet support Sunday for his election proposal, Israeli ministers said.

But two right-wing ministers voiced doubts, suggesting Shamir may face opposition from hardliners in his own Likud party, as well as the public rejection by Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Shamir, who returned from the United States Friday, presented his four-point plan to the cabinet Sunday after receiving cautious backing from President George Bush.

"I believe it is a good initiative," Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin told reporters after the meeting. "This initiative puts the ball in the Arab, Palestinian court because Israel offers something concrete — how to move from the present situation towards peace on our eastern border."

Right-wing ministers David Levy and Yitzhak Modai expressed misgivings, saying the plan would only "legitimise" candidates from the PLO.

Central America and superpower rivalry

By Bernd Debussmann
Reuter

MEXICO CITY — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's call for an end to the arms race in Central America has highlighted a vast gulf between superpower words and deeds in an area armed to the teeth.

Moscow and Washington have pumped weapons worth billions of dollars to their respective clients in Central America, giving it one of the world's highest rates of military growth over the past decade.

Military supplies from bullets to bombers and tanks have continued despite earnest public declarations from both superpowers that there can be no peace as long as militarisation of the region continues.

Gorbachev made the latest superpower call for an end to arms deliveries during his visit to Cuba last week. "There is at the present time a real possibility to ensure peace and security in the region," he said in Havana.

A major condition for this would be a halt to military supplies from wherever they come.

Similar statements in the past have not been matched by any reduction of Soviet supplies to Nicaragua, whose armed forces have increased more than tenfold in the past decade to become the biggest in Central America.

In turn, the U.S. government has shown no inclination to translate into deeds periodic calls for a halt to weapons supplies. Congress has cut military supplies to right-wing insurgents in Nicaragua but U.S. client governments in El Salvador and Honduras continue to receive large amounts of weapons.

"It has been the same story year after year," said a Latin American diplomat. "The Americans say they will stop once the Russians stop. The Russians say they will stop once the Americans stop. It is always 'you first' and no one is making the first move."

In January the United States completed delivery of a squadron of F-5 fighter jets to Honduras, at \$72 million the biggest single military deal in Central America for years.

The fighters, the most advanced aircraft in the Central American arsenal, were shipped three months ahead of schedule and ensured Honduran air superiority over Nicaragua.

Western diplomats said the early deliveries of the F-5s was meant as a signal from President Bush that he was as committed to backing Honduras, Washington's closest ally in Central America, as was President Reagan.

The superpowers' apparent hypocrisy underscores the fact that Central America has yet to benefit from the improved climate in U.S.-Soviet relations which has led to disarmament in El Salvador.

Soon after the revolutionaries of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) in Nicaragua toppled dictator Anastasio Somoza in 1979, Washington accused the Sandinistas — in complicity with Cuba — of running arms to left-wing rebels fighting the U.S.-backed government in El Salvador.

Western military experts say they do not expect sizeable cuts in military aid from either superpower, though the staggering growth rates of the past are unlikely to be repeated.

In response, the U.S. helped raise an army of right-wing insurgents, known as contras, who began fighting the Sandinistas from bases in Honduras. Both the Salvadorean and Honduran military establishments flourished with large injections of U.S. aid to the hilt.

Soon after the revolutionaries of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) in Nicaragua toppled dictator Anastasio Somoza in 1979, Washington accused the Sandinistas — in complicity with Cuba — of running arms to left-wing rebels fighting the U.S.-backed government in El Salvador.

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During a ceremony organised to commemorate the anniversary

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Features

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, APRIL 17, 1989 5

Taxi! Taxi!

In a word apparently obsessed with design and yearly model improvements, it's nice to find a 40-year-old product still going strong. It's name? The London Taxi. **Arturo Geras** reports.

ALL THINGS considered, the British have a lot to be proud of in their distinctive London taxicab. Consider some of its amenities: a 1.75-metre height predetermined so that a gentleman may sit in with his top hat on and not touch the roof. Forty-centimetre-deep cushioned seats. Physical separation by glass from the driver. Two jump seats so that four can fit inside its 1.7-metre-wide rear passenger compartment. Rear-view mirrors mounted on the wings or at such an angle in the cab so as to ensure passenger privacy.

A rear compartment heater and lights which can be turned on by the passenger. A well-lit meter positioned so that nothing blocks it from the clients' view. And a turning radius of under seven metres, making possible, for this 3.8 metre long car, some of the sharpest U-turns imaginable.

The boxy British Leyland, Austin-designed FX4 hack hasn't changed materially since the 1920s when it was first conceived. The current model dates back to 1948, the year Prince Charles was born. Several prime ministers later, the car has hardly altered.

Maybe the British have built such a good cab because they've been in the business of chauffeuring people around longer than most.

History of 'taxi-cabs'

In 1634, a retired sea captain in London began renting out five horse-drawn cabs to people who didn't want to muddy their feet in the dirt of the city streets. Drivers arrived liveried and bewigged and charged about 12 cents a mile. London's oldest cab stand is on the Strand where it has been for over 350 years.

Then came Joseph Aloisius Hansom, a milestone name in the history of British cab. He designed the distinctive horse-

drawn, two-wheeler in which Sherlock Holmes clip-clopped through the foggy gaslit London streets.

In 1896 there were 7,580 hansom cabs in London, as against only 13,500 cabs today. The hansom held sway until 1904 when automobiles clattered onto London's streets.

The term "cab" comes from the French *cabriolet de place*, a horse-drawn cart for hire in London and Paris in the early 1800s. To register the tax on a ride, the French in 1898 installed a taxi-meter and the term "taxi-cab" was born.

The London Hackney Carriages Act — named for a breed of horse which used to pull early cabs — is more than 100 years old and has still not been fully overhauled by British authorities. Until the late 1940s, every cabbie on the roads was legally obliged to provide one bale of hay a day for his animal.

Actually, London's first laws governing cabs date back to 1657 when Cromwell's officials forbade "over-charging, wanton and reckless driving, refusing to accept a hiring, and decreed 'anyone guilty of the said abuses shall be whipped.'

Perhaps the British Government has been a little slow to rewrite its 1869 Public Carriages Act, but there is nothing backwards about the way it currently manages its cabs and cabbies.

Since 1850, the Carriage Office has been part of Scotland Yard. A staff of close to 80 runs 13,500 cabs and 18,500 drivers criss-crossing the 1,735 miles of roadway in London's 650 square miles.

Stringent checks

One requirement which other countries might do well to imitate is an annual stringent breakdown, reassembly and overhaul of every cab on the road. At the busy Public Car-

riage House in London, 80 cabs a day get a going-over that's a mechanic's dream. Checks are so stringent that most owners find it unprofitable to keep a cab on the road for more than 10 years.

Of course, the British cab is not perfect. It is diesel-powered for economy, but drivers complain that the four-cylinder engine is noisy. And it's not designed for speed; if a driver puts his foot down, he's lucky to hit 100 kilometres per hour. But on Britain's city streets, speed is seldom possible anyway. Also, the boot is small, but this is compensated for by commodious luggage space alongside the driver.

There's no doubt that the four-speed Austin taxi is a vehicle which reaches out and simply grips the affections of men who admire automobiles. One eccentric millionaire had a cab specially built for himself several years ago with assorted gold fittings and electrically operated windows. When part of his estate was auctioned off, it went for close to \$15,000.

An American tycoon, Franklyn Bower, decided several years ago that the London taxi was the perfect gift for the "man who had everything" and ordered 32 vintage vehicles for about \$75,000, skipping charges like

Changes 'unwelcome'

The most frightening of all thoughts is that the British are tampering with this near-perfect design. London Taxis International has a new model, fashioned on the Range Rover, ready to come out. Called the CR6, it will cost cabbies about \$16,500. If they roll out in quantity, it will mean a lot of free rides; tradition has it that the first passenger gets the ride on the house.

Another grisly prospect: Some London cabs may soon be equipped with back seat video which will play 30 minutes of commercials at passengers. Happily, there will be a passenger block-off switch.

Several prestigious London



Aspiring London cabbies have to prove they know all of London's 7,500 street names.

firms have their own private cabs. Coutts the bankers have a maroon model; stockbrokers Grieveson Corant's is green; realtors Knight, Frank and Ratley has a phone in its private taxi.

Budget Rent-a-Car has been renting a white London cab (sans meter and "Taxi" sign) for those who want to get behind the wheel of this ultimate auto.

Genial drivers

There is one other element which makes a ride in a British taxi a delight in comparison with enduring a trip elsewhere. The difference is the British taxi driver. Sporting nicknames like Billy the Coalman, Shiny Tops and Randy Raw, wearing their traditional brass lapel badges, taxi drivers are a unique and dedicated, bluff and genial bunch.

One is a knight, Sir Tom Sbarman, who continued to drive even after the queen tapped him on the shoulder for his work with Britain's housing associations.

Becoming a London cabbie is no cinch. Applicants must put in 15 to 18 months of study, taking an oral exam every two or three weeks at Scotland Yard's Public Carriage Office to obtain the distinctive green licence. The candidates have to prove they know all of London's 7,500 street names within

a six-mile radius of Charing Cross station. About 1,500 hopefuls, average age 20, tackle the course each year; less than 750 make it.

Eric Keats of the Licensed Taxi Drivers Association explains the routine. "The Carriage Office gives each man a little blue book with about 450 routes in downtown London in it, and he has to learn the most direct way to each spot. By the time he's finished with the book and the training, he's crossed and re-crossed the same streets hundreds of times."

"Then he's also 'On The Knowledge.' That means getting on a motorbike to follow all the routes he'll eventually drive, learning the one-way streets, memorising every cinema, theatre, museum, hotel and train station.

"The men learn London with a vengeance because, after all, it's a job for a lifetime, isn't it?"

The trade has a lingo all its own:

"Musbers" are owner-drivers; "journeymen" the drivers who rent their cabs; "butterboys" newly licensed cabbies.

British cabbies have a reputation for being thoughtful and considerate men. Often you'll see a cab trying to make a U-turn into a long line of London traffic and, inevitably, it's a fellow cabbie who'll blink his lights and make a gap so his buddy can slip in.

For years an elderly British

driver in Ledbury took it on himself to attend to the transportation needs of a widow in her 80s, waiting for her when she shopped, coming by to pick her up at regular times. "I suppose she was my best customer," he recalls. "She told me she was going to leave me something in her will but I never took any notice of that."

When she died at 86, he got the biggest tip of his life from her: \$75,000.

My own favourite British cabby story is a personal one. I had to travel out to Silverstone to photograph Grand Prix driver Jackie Stewart in a race, and took a five-mile cab ride from the train station to the speedway. In the cab, I asked the driver if he'd pick me up at the 5 p.m. and he agreed.

At five, I arrived at the spot but was dismayed to find that the police had converted the two-way highway into a one-way exit road from the track. There was absolutely no way for the cabby to drive up to me. I asked a policeman how I might get home and he suggested walking a mile down the road, until it became two-way again. These I'd find a bus which would get me to the station. So I started tramping.

Halfway there I met my driver — walking up. Picking me up meant a two-mile hike for him from where he was parked, but he'd made a promise, hadn't he? — Reprinted from Emirates Inflight magazine.

importance of the site.

Gretton said the seminar was a great success. "Somehow we have to try and develop a plan which rationalise all the competing interests for the area," Gretton said.

Experts reckon the slender hill curlew — *Numerius tenuirostris* — to be the most endangered species of migratory bird in Europe and Africa, with fewer than 100 left.

"It is quite simply on the brink of extinction," Alastair Gamble of Britain's Royal Society for the Preservation of Birds (RSPB) told Reuters.

Bird watchers during the past three months spotted three slender hill curlews wintering on the Merja Zerga lagoon, near the picturesque town of Moulay Bou Selham on Morocco's Atlantic coast.

The bird, small and whitish with black and brown spots, breeds in the central Siberian marshes, and then in the autumn it migrates thousands of miles across Eastern Europe to Africa.

"It is extremely rare. No nest has been found in the Soviet Union since before the Russian revolution. Less than 100 is a really desperate situation for a bird that migrates so many thousands of miles," said Adam Gretton of the International Council for Bird Preservation (ICBP).

The ICBP has launched a campaign to save the species which has thrown the spotlight on the 7,000-hectare coastal reserve, hitherto known to only a handful of bird watchers.

Conservationists are concerned about hunting which takes place on the edge of the reserve, and poaching and overfishing by the local population. They also fear the scenic area could be targeted for major tourism developments.

The RSPB and ICBP organised a day's seminar at a hotel near the reserve recently to try to make local officials more aware of the

are well on their way to settling down in the country. In the Sicilian province of Palermo alone some 600 Arabs are married to Italian women while in the country as a whole the figure is over 6,000. Italians argue that they can perhaps be accused of indifference, but not intolerance.

Italian and Vatican analysts believe that by standing aside the Vatican and Italy have made a significant long-term diplomatic investment in the world of Islam.

Most Italians remember all too vividly their own recent history. At least 25 million Italians have emigrated to the high-tech metropolitan jungles of America, Canada, Australia and elsewhere. In this peculiar history of the Italians lies hope, analysts believe, that the rightist sentiment will not easily overwhelm the saner and moderate opinion in the country. — Academic File.

Birdwatchers turn to Morocco for rare species

By Jonathan Clayton
Reuter

MOULAY BOU SELHAM, Morocco — International conservationists have joined forces to try to save the Moroccan winter resting ground of one of the world's rarest birds.

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Rushdie affair fails to cloud Romans' ecumenical spirit

The planned mosque of Rome is being used by Italy's right wing to stir up communal trouble against the country's Muslims, but the ecumenical spirit remains strong in the home of the Roman Catholic church.

By Fabrizio Fontemaggi.

ROME — The Salman Rushdie affair, used by the right wing to spread alarm about the planned completion next year of the first mosque in Rome, has failed to cloud the Romans' liberal outlook on the changing map of their city.

Although recent weeks have seen much heated publicity being given to the Muslim presence in Italy — some 700,000 people of diverse backgrounds in Asia and Africa — prominent Italians have

also counselled moderation and they have been given a hearing. The debate over the Muslims, in fact, is an offshoot of the controversy over the influx of people from Italy's former colonies, political trouble spots in the Middle East and economically strapped countries of Asia and South and Central America.

Until last year the controversy was overshadowed by the "Le Pen factor," or worries that the rise of the National Front in neighbouring France was about to have a spillover effect in Italy.

The controversy over the mosque has sprung more from its opponents' perceptions than from

the completion of the mosque building. Work on other buildings, including a cultural centre, library and museum will be started when additional donations are made into the mosque fund.

The idea of a mosque in Rome was first raised during the 1930s regime of fascist dictator Benito Mussolini, who refused permission. The subject was raised several times after the end of the war but it was not until 1965 that the stage was set with the Vatican declaration of respect for Islam.

When King Faisal visited Rome in 1973, he received assurances that the mosque's construction would not be blocked. A site was then chosen near the Tiber River, a few miles from the Vatican, and

work began in 1983.

None of this would have been possible, of course, had the Vatican not relented in its original opposition to the project. In recent years not only has the Vatican shown an increasing willingness to work with Islam, its outlook has been influenced in no uncertain terms by the events in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Since the start of the intifada, the Palestinian uprising, the Vatican has shown cognizance of the close bond that exists between its followers in the Christian communities of the occupied territories and the Muslims. On the other hand, it has apparently been perturbed by the conversions of several thousand Italian Catholics

to Islam. The Vatican's strong condemnation of the Satanic Verses seemed to reinforce an oft-repeated idea that the Vatican would stand behind the faithful irrespective of their religious denomination.

Italian and Vatican analysts believe that by standing aside the Vatican and Italy have made a significant long-term diplomatic investment in the world of Islam.

Not only has their approval of the project given both a greater leverage in dealing with chronic issues, such as the conflict in Lebanon.

Although a large part of the Muslim immigrants still are awaiting legalisation, and some 4,000 of them are students, others

'Ecstasy' — the in-thing in New York City nightclubs

By Allison Hayey
Reuter

NEW YORK — Ecstasy, a psychedelic drug first popular in the 1960s has reappeared in New York nightclubs.

Users say it makes them feel happy, warm and sensual.

"I feel great when I take ecstasy. My worst enemy becomes my best friend," said one.

On any night there is a party somewhere in a smoke-filled club packed with young men and women swaying to the resonant sounds of "house music" and downing a drug they think has no harmful side effects.

The scene at one Lower East Side club on a recent night was typical. The pillow-filled lounges were packed with young people under a glare of psychedelic lights.

They sat close together touching and hugging, their faces lit with smiles. Some had their hands coated with white powder that they occasionally licked or mixed in water to drink.

The powder was methylene dihydroxyethylamphetamine (MDMA), known as ecstasy.

Many drug experts say it is quickly becoming the drug of choice for New York City's affluent club youngsters.

Ecstasy, a man-made hallucinogen, has been dubbed the LSD of the 1980s. Users call the high it produces an "experience" although its effect is not as potent as that produced by LSD.

The drug is made in clandestine home laboratories and distributed by drug dealers who also sell heroin and cocaine. Police say it is easy to make.

A 22-year-old woman said she buys the drug once a month for \$10 to \$30 a dose. The effect lasts

four to six hours.

"The high is great for a club. The energy is there for dancing and touching," she said. "The high is very enlightening. Ecstasy is a perfect name."

Ecstasy is illegal and the government puts it in the same category as cocaine and heroin.

Robert Stutman, New York director of the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), says MDMA produces the same effects as LSD, such as paranoid and psychotic behaviour.

He said the drug is taken by the same group of people who used LSD in the 1960s: predominantly white, financially secure 18 to 24-year-olds.

Sports

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, APRIL 17, 1989 7

English Soccer Round-up

FA CUP

Everton 1, Norwich 0 (1-0)
Pat Nevin's lucky goal in the 26th minute gave Everton the victory and a spot in the FA cup final. Nevin outraced Norwich goalie Bryan Gunn to the ball after defender Ian Crook banged a bad clearance off his own goalpost. Norwich, which was trying to bounce back from four losses in its last five league matches, had its dreams of cup victory shattered when it missed several scoring opportunities. Robert Rosario missed the last one, a makeable shot in the 71st minute, and said afterward that the sun blinded him. 46,553.

DIVISION 1

Arsenal 1, New Castle 0 (0-0)

Brian Marwood scored his 12th goal of the season to take Arsenal back to the top of Division 1. Arsenal broke down a dogged Newcastle after 70 minutes. David Rocastle picked up the ball in midfield and pushed it through for Michael Thomas who turned it inside for Rocastle to drive past goalkeeper Gary Kelly. Newcastle, second from the bottom of the first division, played with five across the back and seemed determined to earn a draw. The visitors would have won, missing two chances midway through the first half. 36,023.

Luton 2, Coventry 2 (0-0)

Luton threw away two points it badly needed in its fight against relegation when captain Steve Foster and fellow defender David Beaumont both scored own goals. Luton took the lead in the 54th minute when defender John

Dreyer headed his first goal for the club from a corner by David Preece. But in the 70th minute, a shot by Cyrille Regis bounced off the knee of Foster into his own net. Luton regained the lead after 75 minutes when Danny Wilson followed up his own penalty miss, but four minutes later Beaumont and goalkeeper Alec Chamberlain both went for a header by David Speedie and Beaumont got the final touch, heading into his own net. 8,610.

Manchester United 0, Derby 2 (0-1)

Manchester United's abysmal run continued as visiting Derby crushed to a comfortable victory on goals by Gary Mickelwhite in the third minute and Paul Goddard in the 66th minute.

QPR 0, Middlesbrough 0 (0-0)

Visiting Middlesbrough missed four chances for a victory. Twice in the first half Stuart Ripley tore QPR's defense to shreds only to see first Mark Proctor and then Bernie Slaven finish feebly. After the half Slaven then set up Alan Kermagh, who shot wide. Then David Seaman saved from Ripley and Peter Reid cleared Kermagh's shot off the line. 10,347.

West Ham 1, Southampton 2 (1-1)

Rodney Wallace scored just 33 seconds after the kickoff and West Ham never recovered. The Hammers, last in the division, tied the score 1-1 on Liam Brady's penalty kick at 25 minutes but Paul Rideout headed home a cross in the 51st minute for the victory.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF

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RUBBER AND DUPLICATE—TWO DIFFERENT GAMES!

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♦ K 9

♦ 7 6 5

♦ 3

♦ Q 10 9 7 4 2

WEST EAST

♦ 6 ♦ 8 7 2

♦ Q J 8 4 3 ♦ 10 9 3 2

♦ K E 9 8 5 ♦ Q 10

♦ J 8 5 ♦ 6

SOUTH ♦ A Q 10 5 4 3

♦ Void

♦ 7 6 4 2

♦ A K 3

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Queen of ♦

There can be great difference in technique between a pairs tournament and rubber bridge. Cover the East-West hands and, as South, decide how you will play the hand at both forms of the game.

Since South's spade rebid guarantees a six-card suit, North's invitational raise should be automatic. South has a little in reserve for his bid of four spades, but not enough

to do anything more. Note that six clubs, impossible to get to, is a pretty good contract.

Assume that you are playing in a pairs competition. You ruff the opening heart lead and decide that most of your fellow competitors also will be in four spades. Therefore, you should follow the percentage line in an effort to take as many tricks as possible. Ruff the opening heart lead and cash two rounds of trumps. Unfortunately, West shows out on the second round and a perfectly sound game bites the dust.

Playing rubber bridge, before you do anything else you must determine what poses a risk to your contract. Here, obviously, the major threat comes from a 4-1 trump break. How can you neutralize that? Simple enough.

At trick two, lead a trump from hand and insert the table's nine! Even if the cards lie as in the diagram, you are safe. The best East can do when he wins the jack is, say, shift to a club. You win in hand, draw the three outstanding trumps by starting with the ace from hand, and then run the clubs. You will collect five spade tricks and six clubs for a well-deserved overtrick.

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Soccer fans climb to safety during the panic in which at least 94 people died Saturday at Sheffield's Hillsborough ground.

Sympathy, warnings, criticism raised after soccer disaster

LONDON (R) — World leaders and soccer officials have sent sympathy to Britain for the victims of the Sheffield stadium disaster Saturday in which 94 people died and 200 were injured when a crowd surged onto the packed terrace.

But soccer officials in Italy said the tragedy raised a question mark over a decision by the European Football Union Tuesday to allow English clubs back in European competition in 1990-91.

The clubs were banned in 1985 after 39 mainly Italian fans died after a rampage by English fans at a European Cup final in Brussels' Heysel stadium between Liverpool and Juventus.

Italy's Soccer Federation Chief Antonio Matarassi said the tragedy raised "grave questions" about the decision to let English clubs return to European competition.

In Turin, Giovanni Boniperti, president of Juventus, said he was shocked and speechless at the Sheffield tragedy.

King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain spoke of an "unfortunate catastrophe" in a telegram to Queen Elizabeth and said: "Sofia and I send you and all the nation the expression of our most sincere regrets."

French President Francois Mitterrand told British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher: "I have been deeply moved by the Sheffield drama and assure

you and the families of the victims of my personal condolences."

British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe, attending a foreign ministers meeting in Granada, Spain, sent condolences to the families of the victims.

"It's a very dark, sad day for soccer," said Jim Trecker, press officer for the U.S. World Cup Association, which will host the World Cup in 1994.

There were calls for improved safety rules at sporting events.

In Brazil, Tele Santana, the country's coach in the 1982 and 1986 world cups, told Reuters: "An accident of this nature is a great setback for soccer."

"This tragedy should remind the organisers of mass-sports events that the spectators' safety is their first duty."

"They should improve safety rules in stadiums and make sure they are kept," said Senator Fernando de la Rua, author of an Argentine law against violence in sports.

Media attack

British Sunday newspapers were scathing in their condemnation of English soccer authorities after the stadium disaster.

"Despite disaster after disaster, nothing seems to shake the complacency or incompetence of those who run the country's most popular spectator sport," the Sunday Times said in a special front-page editorial.

Colombo asks Tigers to send negotiators

COLOMBO (AP) — Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa Sunday responded to a militant Tamil offer to talk peace by asking their main political leader to send representatives to meet him, official sources said.

Evans Cooray, press secretary at the presidential secretariat, said a message has been conveyed to Anton Balasingham, political leader of the Tamil Tigers, asking him to nominate accredited representatives to talk with Premadasa.

Cooray said the message signed by K.H.A. Wijayadasa, secretary to the president, addressed to Balasingham, read:

"Your message to have a dialogue with the president of Sri Lanka is very much appreciated. He has instructed me to request you to nominate accredited representatives to discuss necessary

arrangements to facilitate the dialogue anywhere in Sri Lanka."

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the dominant separatist group fighting for a separate Tamil state, Saturday agreed to talk with Premadasa.

The Tigers in a statement to the president that was telecast to news agencies in Colombo Saturday said: "We wish to inform you that we are prepared to accept your open invitation to talk to us. We hope that you will make the necessary arrangements to facilitate dialogue."

A Tiger leader in Colombo early Sunday said he met Premadasa at Anuradhapura, 165 kilometers north of Colombo, and personally conveyed the Tiger message.

The leader, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the president was very receptive and

was keen to start the dialogue as soon as possible.

The efforts for talks between the government and the Tigers came amid continued violence which left at least 79 people dead since Thursday.

Police, led by an anonymous

telephone caller, rushed to a site near Petaluma, 50 kilometers north of San Francisco, found the bodies of Salcido's two-year-old daughter, Teresa, and her four-year-old sister, Sophia. Their sister, Carmina, three, had a slash across her throat and was rushed to a local hospital.

The deaths, discovered Saturday, brought the number of killings so far to seven as police in helicopters and at roadblocks stepped up their search for the suspected killer, 28-year-old Ramon Salcido.

"The suspect is armed and extremely dangerous and everyone is in danger at this point," Sonoma County Sheriff Richard Michaelson said. "Certainly Ramon Salcido is not going to give up easily."

Among the five earlier victims was her mother, Angelina, who

police said had been shot dead in

the family home at Boyes Hot

Angola: Over 500 SWAPO fighters back from Namibia

LUANDA (R) — More than 500 South-West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) guerrillas from northern Namibia have been moved to positions

north of the 16th Parallel in Angola under a week-old withdrawal agreement, the Angolan news agency Angop said Sunday.

Angop quoted Angolan Defense Minister Colonel-General Pedro Maria Tonha as telling reporters in the southern city of Lubango Saturday that fighters were continuing to cross from Namibia.

But United Nations Under-Secretary General Marrack Goulding, who accompanied Tonha on a tour of bases where the SWAPO guerrillas were being confined, told Reuters in Luanda Saturday night:

"We have not yet established how many have come back across the frontier."

He said he had asked the Angolan authorities to provide the exact number of guerrillas that had pulled back to Angola and their precise locations.

Goulding, who heads the U.N.'s peacekeeping forces around the world, is monitoring Angola's implementation of a U.N.-backed agreement made a week ago with South Africa and Cuba to withdraw SWAPO fighters from northern Namibia and confine them to bases in Angola north of the 16th Parallel.

The pullout is aimed at saving a U.N. independence plan for South African-ruled Namibia which was threatened by fierce fighting between SWAPO guerrillas and South African-led security forces that broke out within hours of the plan coming into force April 1.

South Africa says about 350 of the 1,600 SWAPO guerrillas it alleges infiltrated northern Namibia April 1 have returned to Angola so far. It says its forces killed at least 276 in the fighting.

Goulding said he saw several hundred armed and uniformed SWAPO fighters at Chibemba, a village in southern Huila province

A young SWAPO fighter who reported to a U.N. mission station in northern Namibia, talks to a

for a bullet wound and being escorted back into Angola.

Goulding said the authorities in southern Angola had commanded civilian vehicles to help transport the guerrillas north of the Namibian frontier.

Some had come from northern Namibia and others had been moved north from positions inside southern Angola.

Those coming from inside Namibia appeared to have avoided U.N. assembly points set up inside the territory to receive them.

SWAPO President Sam Nujoma, who also accompanied Tonga on his tour, says the assembly points are South African traps to capture his fighters.

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Some had come from northern Namibia and others had been moved north from positions inside southern Angola.

As far as we could see, the people had no infrastructure at all... there were no tents for all of them," he said adding that Angola had asked the U.N. to help provide shelter, food and medicine.

The U.N. envoy said 30 observers of the U.N. Transition Assistance Group for Namibia

(UNTAG) would arrive in Angola Tuesday to help monitor SWAPO's confinement to base.

U.N. sources said it was clear that the bulk of SWAPO forces had not been north of the 16th Parallel April 1 as they were meant to be under peace accords signed between South Africa, Angola and Cuba.

The sources said it was obvious Angola had had difficulty in controlling the SWAPO guerrillas which it has harboured and helped since Angolan independence from Portugal in 1975.

Philippine rebels offer ceasefire

HARARE (AP) — A shortage of patrol cars has forced Zimbabwe's police officers to hitchhike, bicycle or travel by public bus to the scenes of crimes, officials say. Law enforcement officers going into the countryside are given warrants to travel by train or bus, police chief of staff Christopher Lee told the Zimbabwe Inter-African News Agency (ZIANA). More than half of the police force's vehicles were off the road, needing servicing or repairs, the senior assistant commissioner said in an interview.

The rebel National Democratic Front (NDF) made the proposal in a statement signed by former peace negotiator Satur Ocampo.

"If the Aquino government

took such a step — through an official declaration or executive act affirming that, one, it will terminate the current executive agreement on the U.S. bases by 1991 and, two, that it will not enter into a new bases treaty with the U.S. after that — the National Democratic Front would not hesitate to immediately declare a unilateral ceasefire and enter into negotiations for a comprehensive political settlement and a peaceful end to the civil war."

Book of Kells to go into print

DUBLIN (R) — The Book of Kells, Ireland's national treasure which ranks as one of the world's most beautiful illuminated manuscripts, is going into print — almost 12 centuries after its creation. The first full colour facsimile edition of the fragile tome

would go on sale for \$16,000 a copy from 1990, a spokeswoman for Dublin's Trinity College said. The book, a lavishly illustrated Latin text of the four Gospels produced by Irish monks in 800 A.D., is kept in the college library which turns over and displays a page a day.

Honesty, not luck wins woman lottery

RUKKAN, Norway (R) — A woman who bought a lottery ticket at her bank and left it on the counter after deciding it was worthless is 250,000 crowns (\$36,700) richer thanks to an honest customer. The Norwegian dairy Verdens Gang said Friday that the honest customer handed in the ticket and the bank traced the woman, whom it did not identify, with the help of video footage taken by security cameras.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	% Weather
AMSTERDAM	06 43	10 50	Cloudy
ATHENS	10 50	18 64	Clear
BAHRAIN	22 73	30 86	Clear
BANGKOK	22 82	35 95	Clear
Buenos Aires	15 59	29 79	Cloudy
CARIO	18 64	32 80	Clear
CHICAGO	03 37	16 62	Rain
COPENHAGEN	07 45	18 67	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	06 43	10 50	Rain
GENEVA	04 39	13 55	Clear
HONG KONG	18 68	21 70	Cloudy
ISTANBUL	10 50	19 66	Clear
LAOS	08 45	12 54	Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	15 60	21 70	Cloudy
MADRID	04	19	Cloudy
MEECA	24 78	40 104	Cloudy
MAMI	24 78	28 82	Cloudy
MONTREAL	05 41	08 50	Rain
NEW DELHI	09 32	23 37	Cloudy
NEW YORK	19 68	37 99	Clear
PARIS	03 37	18 81	Cloudy
ROME	05 41	20 69	Clear
TOKYO	18 61	24 75	Cloudy
VIENNA	08 46	21 69	Clear

North story 'smelly,' may not wash in court, say lawyers

By James Rowley

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The fired White House aide accused of illegally funding Nicaraguan rebels with profits from arms sales to Iran may have hurt his credibility going into the final week of his trial, legal experts say.

"The most damaging thing that happened to (Oliver North) during the trial was the cross-examination on the [Iran-Contra] operation," said North's interrogator at the 1987 congressional hearings when he was chief counsel to the House of Representatives Iran-contra committee.

After eight weeks of trial,

nobody does that," said Paul Rothstein, a professor at Georgetown University Law Centre. "I am not entirely convinced the jury is going to think it's smelly (unlikely), it just depends on their personal experience."

Besides charges he lied to Congress about his secret help of the Nicaraguan rebels, North is also accused of diverting to his personal use some \$4,300 of the \$90,000 worth of travellers checks given to him by a contra leader.

To have come up with a locked box on the floor for your explanation for large expenses when you are taking travellers checks from your contra (petty cash) account looks terrible," Nields said.

He told jurors that on the advice of the late Central In-

telligence Agency (CIA) Director William Casey he destroyed a ledger he kept to document all disbursements from the secret operational fund.

North also denied Keker's suggestion that he took \$3,000 from a \$15,000 stash of money in a box bolted to the closet floor of his closet. The money was unashed from an insurance settlement and change he emptied from his pants pockets every Friday night, North said.

North said he took \$5,000 to buy a station wagon but decided instead to purchase the more expensive car. North tes-

tified he made a \$5,000 initial payment and paid the additional \$3,000 later for a larger car.

But a used-car salesman disputed this testimony Friday, saying North told him he intended to partially finance the purchase through the White House Credit Union.

A former National Security Council secretary who disbursed expense accounts, said North was so pinched for cash in 1984 he complained he couldn't buy lunch or gas to drive home.

She said these complaints stopped in 1985, when North controlled a secret fund for the contras in his office safe.

"I think the business of the purchase of the car and perhaps the rebuttal testimony

from the used-car salesman and the secretary from the National Security Council may be damaging," said former Watergate prosecutor Richard Ben-Veniste.

"About the time these payments start coming in, the jury may conclude that the temptation for all of this money was just too much for Ollie North," said Ben-Veniste.

"If the jury finds he was involved in self-dealing then his whole posture of moral rectitude is not going to wash (he is believed)," said Ben-Veniste.

Jurors were left with an image of North explaining how he used a department-store typewriter to type letters to help fabricate proof he paid for a

\$13,800 security fence around his home.

North said he accepted the fence to protect his family in the face of terrorist threats but admitted the cover-up.

Dershowitz also faulted defense attorney Brendan V. Sullivan for not bringing out the car-purchase story during North's direct testimony instead of leaving it to be developed by Keker on cross-examination.

"Sullivan left far too much for Keker. He didn't sufficiently deflect and defuse the nuclear weapons that Keker had in his arsenal," Dershowitz said.

Sullivan has refused to comment outside the courtroom on any aspect of the case against North.

July 1st 1989